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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2871**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takeshi TAKEZAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 09/976,152

Examiner: H. Ngo

Filed: October 15, 2001

Docket No.: 110858

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL PROJECTOR APPARATUS WITH LIGHT SHIELDING MASK
(AS AMENDED)

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the December 1, 2003 Office Action, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3 and 12-18 remain pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,195,143 to Ogawa; and rejects claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ogawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that Ogawa fails to disclose or suggest a projector comprising, *inter alia*, a condenser lens provided at a light incident side of the liquid crystal device, and, by shifting a center axis of light incident upon the condenser lens and an optical axis of the condenser lens in parallel so that the incident angle of light that strikes the drive elements becomes small when the center axis of the light incident upon the

condenser lens and the optical axis of the condenser lens coincide, the angle of light incident upon the liquid crystal device is restricted as recited in independent claim 2.

Ogawa instead teaches a projector including a liquid crystal device which uses a micro lens array 830 to direct incident light which is not substantially parallel to the clear viewing direction onto the shielding mask which covers the drive element 822. As seen in Fig. 3 of Ogawa, micro lens array 830 shifts light onto the light shield 826p on top of the drive element 822 so that the amount of incident light from a direction not parallel to the clear viewing direction is reduced. At column 9, lines 50-60, Ogawa indicates that as a result, the amount of light exiting the liquid crystal device is reduced, however, the proportion of light parallel to the clear viewing direction is increased, thereby providing display images with an improved contrast. Thus, Ogawa intentionally shifts light components onto the shielding mask in order to prevent components of light which are not parallel to the clear viewing direction from being emitted by the projection display device. Unlike what is recited in claim 2, Ogawa is not concerned with preventing light from being incident upon the drive elements by shifting a center axis of the incident upon the condenser lens and an optical axis of the condenser lens in parallel to reduce the incident angle of light that strikes the drive elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is patentable over Ogawa. Dependent claims 3 and 12-18 also are patentable over Ogawa for at least the same reasons as claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DEB/tbh

Date: March 1, 2004

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